

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 01968 221054Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 AID-05 IGA-02
L-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AGRE-00
/054 W

-----130271 221327Z /45

R 221036Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5153
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EPAP, SWEL, GY
SUBJECT: GUYANA RICE BOARD FIRE

REF: GEORGETOWN 1800

1. INVESTIGATION OF THE FIRE AT THE GUYANA RICE BOARD
(REFTEL) CONTINUES. POLICE SUSPECT ARSON WAS INVOLVED
AND TWO RICE BOARD EMPLOYEES TOLD EMBOFF THAT UNDER
NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE DUST AND LOOSE THREADS OF JUTE
BAGS COULD IGNITE AND BURN, BUT THE THICK FIBERS OF THE
STACKED BAGS --WHICH HAD BURNED-- WOULD BURN ONLY WITH DIFFI-
CULTY UNLESS OIL OR SOME INFLAMMABLE SUBSTANCE HAD BEEN POURED
OVER THEM AND IGNITED. ALSO, POLICE HAVE UNCOVERED A PLOT TO
SABOTAGE THE AMERICAN -OWNED NATIONAL MILLING COMPANY WHICH
IMPORTS WHEAT AND PROVIDES ALL OF GUYANA'S WHEAT FLOUR.
MANAGER OF NATIONAL MILLING COMPANY INFORMED EMBASSY
THAT POLICE INFORMANT HAD PROVIDED THIS INFORMATION AND
POLICE HAD PROVIDED FOUR ADDITIONAL GUARDS AND REVAMPED
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SECURITY AT THE FLOUR MILL.

2. THE BLAZE AT THE RICE MARKETING BOARD FACILITIES
CONTINUED FOR OVER A WEEK BECAUSE STORAGE FOR EMPTY
BAGS BENEATH THE WHARVES IGNITED AND FIRE WAS INACCESSIBLE.
DYNAMITE WAS EVENTUALLY USED TO BRING IT UNDER CONTROL.

3. AN ESTIMATED US\$3 MILLION DAMAGE WAS DONE TO RICE BOARD FACILITIES. ABOUT US\$1. MILLION OF RICE WAS DAMAGED (NOT BURNED). PLANS FOR EXPORT OF RICE HAVE BEEN INTERRUPTED BUT OFFICIAL GOG SPOKESMEN STAUNCHLY ASSERT THAT GUYANA'S OVERSEAS COMMITMENTS WILL BE HONORED.

4. ABOUT 6 MONTHS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO RECONSTRUCT THE DAMAGED FACILITIES IF FUNDS WERE AVAILABLE TO FINANCE RECONSTRUCTION. REPORTEDLY INSURANCE COVERED ONLY ABOUT ONE HALF THE LOSS.
BLACKEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIRES, ARSON
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GEORGE01968
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770302-0717
Format: TEL
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770838/aaaabfzy.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a374fa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 GEORGETOWN 1800
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1530746
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUYANA RICE BOARD FIRE
TAGS: EPAP, SWEL, GY, GUYANA RICE BOARD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a374fa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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